

Regular Board Meeting of  
the Jackson Public School District

October 15, 2024, at 05:30 PM

Board Present

Dr. Ed Sivak, Jr., Board President  
Barbara Hilliard, Vice-President  
Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston  
Frank Figgers, Member  
Mitch McGuffey, Member  
Cynthia Thompson, Secretary

Attorneys and Administrative Staff

Dr. Errick L. Greene, Superintendent  
Dorian Turner, ESQ., Board Attorney  
Larissa Harris, ESQ., General Counsel  
Network Assistant Superintendent(s)  
Dr. William Merritt, **IV**, Chief of Staff  
Dr. Michael Cormack, Deputy Supt.  
Earl Burke, CFOO

**MINUTES**

I. Cali to Order: Dr. Sivak, Board President, called the Board Meeting of the Jackson Public School District to order on October 15, 2024, at 5:31 P.M.

II. Establishment of Quorum: A quorum was established when all six (6) members, namely Ed Sivak, Jeanne M. Hairston, Cynthia Thompson, and Barbara Hilliard, attended the meeting in person. Mitch McGuffey and Frank Figgers arrived at 5:37 p.m.

III. Adoption of Agenda: The Board voted to adopt the agenda as presented; motion by Cynthia Thompson, seconded by Barbara Hilliard, votes cast for the motion: Dr. Sivak, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

IV. Reading and Approving Minutes

A. October 1, 2024, Regular Board Meeting Minutes: The Board voted to approve item a. Barbara Hilliard moved; Cynthia Thompson seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

V. Superintendent's Report: Dr. Greene presented his report.

VI. Public Participation for General Comments and/ or Proposed Issues: None.

VII. Information Items Only:

A. Board Member Report

1. Legislative Survey

B. ESSER III Monthly Update August 16, 2024 - September 15, 2024

C. Review of Various Policies for Amendment I GADEB: Donated Leave, IGC/JBR: Graduation Requiraments; and for Deletion I IGC/JBR: Certificate of Completion for Prescribed Program (Pol cy & Procedures): Policy GADEB (Donated Leave) was tabled for later discussion.

VIII. Information/ Action Items:

A. Resolution of Conflict-of-Interest Disclosure of Attorney Related to Sale of Chastain Middle School: The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

B. Approval of the Agreement between Universal Firstcom Music and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item b. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

C. Approval of the Rental Agreement between Advantage Business Systems (Konica Minolta AccurioPress C-470) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSDI): The Board voted to approve item c. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

D. Approval of the Agreement between University of Mississippi Medical Center School of Nursing ("UMMC") and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item d. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

E. Approval of the Agreement between the Community Foundation for Mississippi and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item e. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

F. Approval of the Renewal Agreement between Mississippi State University (MSU) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item f. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

G. Approval of the Grant Agreement between Mississippi Arts Commission (MAC) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item g. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

H. Approval of the Grant Agreement (STEM Goes Red) between the American Heart Association (AHA) and the Jackson Public School District (JPSD): The Board voted to approve item h. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

I. Approval of a Right-of-Way Easement to Entergy Mississippi, LLC: The Board voted to approve item i. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

J. Request to Award RFP 2024-15 - Energy Savings Performance Contracting Services: The Board voted to approve item j. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

K. Approval of the Cancellation of the Sixteenth Section Lease Agreement between Jackson Public Schools (Lessor) and ABC Pallets, Inc. (Lessee): The Board voted to approve item k. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

L. Approval of Preliminary Monthly Financial Report for the Month Ended September 30, 2024 (FY2024-2025): The Board voted to approve item l. Barbara Hilliard moved; Frank Figgers seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

IX. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - Finance:

A. Approval to Reject RFP 2024-04 for a University Partnership for a JPS Teacher Certification Program: The Board voted to approve item a. Mitch McGuffey moved; Jeanne M. Hairston seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

B. Approval to Designate Specified Property as Surplus Property and Approve Disposal: The Board voted to approve item b. Mitch McGuffey moved; Jeanne M. Hairston seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

C. Approval of Re-Bid 3260 - Lawn Care Services: The Board voted to approve item c. Mitch McGuffey moved; Jeanne M. Hairston seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

D. Approval of Various Disbursements from Accounts Payable and Activity Funds: The Board voted to approve item d. Mitch McGuffey moved; Jeanne M. Hairston seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

X. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - General:

A. Approval of District-to-District Transfer (Incoming/Outgoing): The Board voted to approve item a. Cynthia Thompson moved; Barbara Hilliard seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

XI. CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS - Personnel: The Board voted to approve item a. Barbara Hilliard moved; Jeanne M. Hairston The Board voted to approve Personnel as presented: Barbara Hilliard moved; Jeanne M. Hairston seconded; votes cast for the motion were Ed Sivak, Mitch McGuffey, Frank Figgers, Cynthia Thompson, Barbara Hilliard, and Jeanne M. Hairston; votes cast against the motion were none. PASSED

XII. Consideration to Hold an Executive Session: Frank Figgers moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to close the meeting to consider entering into executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

In Closed Session: Mitch McGuffey then moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to enter into executive session to take up one (1) employee termination

appeal, and (2) to receive an update regarding potential legal claims arising out of Entergy's close-out of Lake Hico. The motion was unanimously approved.

In Executive Session: The Board took up the superintendent's recommendation to terminate Quanesha Murray. The Board's findings and decision are set forth in the order attached hereto.

Next, the board received a receive a report from Dr. Greene and General Counsel, Larissa Harris, regarding potential legal claims arising out of Entergy's close-out of Lake Hico. The board took no action on the matter.

There being no further business to discuss in executive session, Barbara Hilliard moved, and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion, to exit executive session. The motion was unanimously approved.

XIII. Adjournment: Back in open session, there was no further business and Mitch McGuffey moved and Cynthia Thompson seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was unanimously approved and the meeting was adjourned.

  
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Signature of Board President Ed Sivak

  
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Date

  
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Attested by Board Secretary Cynthia Thompson

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

**ORDER UPHOLDING RECOMMENDATION OF  
TERMINATION OF OUANESHA MURRAY**

In accordance with Miss. Code Ann. Sections 37-9-59 and 37-9-11, the Board granted Ms. Quanesha Murray ("Murray") an opportunity to make a statement on her behalf prior to the Board making a final decision on the superintendent's recommendation of termination of Murray for her involvement in testing security violations during the Spring 2023 MAAP Assessment. Murray was represented by Attorney Carlos Tanner in her termination proceedings; however, neither Murray nor her attorney appeared before the Board to make a statement on her behalf. The Board had also previously reviewed the transcript of the hearing and read the hearing officer's report submitted by Nathaniel Armistead, Esq.

During its deliberations, the Board determined that Murray exhibited unprofessional conduct when she improperly assisted scholars and failed to report testing irregularities during the Spring 2023 MAAP Assessment. The Board also determined there was credible evidence that Murray knowingly violated District and MDE policies. Murray's explanations, and excuses, as noted in the transcript, were unacceptable and her involvement in the testing irregularities at McLeod and failure to follow District and MDE policies justified her termination.

After discussion, Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston moved, and Mr. Mitch McGuffey, Esq. seconded, the motion to uphold the Superintendent's recommendation of termination of Murray.

The question being put to a vote, the result was as follows:


**BOARD MEMBER:**

**Dr. Jeanne M. Hairston**  
Dr. Ed Sivak  
Mrs. Barbara Hilliard  
Mrs. Cynthia Thompson  
Mr. Mitch McGuffey, Esq.  
Mr. Frank Figgers

**VOTED:**

Aye  
Aye  
Aye  
Aye  
Aye  
Aye

  
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President, Board of Trustees

  
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Secretary, Board of Trustees